Message Text

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71

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 IGA-02 EB-11 L-03 COME-00 AGR-20

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P 141215Z FEB 74 FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6828

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: NA/A TAGS: AF/US/EAID

SUBJECT: AID LOAN 306-H-017-AFC

REF: STATE 27801

1. ON FEB 13 AMBASSADOR INFORMED DEP FONMIN ABDULLAH THAT CONTRARY TO INFORMATION PROVIDED EARLIER, AFGHANISTAN MIGHT BE ABLE TO OBTAIN AID FINANCING UNDER SUBJECT LOAN FOR FERTILIZER PURCHASES FROM OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES. AMBASSADOR CAUTIONED PER PARA 3 REFTEL THAT WE ARE DOUBTFUL THAT SUCH FERTILIZER WILL BE AVAILABLE. AMBASSADOR REITERATED THAT IN ANY EVENT BEFORE DECISION ON AID FINANCING COULD BE MADE, WE WOULD WANT TO HAVE ASSURANCE THAT AFC WOULD CONTINUE AS A VIABLE AND EFFICIENT DISTRIBUTION MECHANISM.

2. ABDULLAH, IN RESPONSE, SAID THAT THE GOA HAD RECEIVED INDICATIONS FROM IRAQ THAT IT MIGHT HAVE FERTILIZER AVAILABLE FOR SALE TO AFGHANISTAN WITHIN FOUR TO SIX MONTHS. IN ADDITION, A KUWAITI DELEGATION WOULD BE VISITING KABUL IN MARCH, AND THE GOA WAS HOPEFUL KUWAITI FERTILIZER WOULD ALSO BE AVAILABLE. ABDULLAH ALSO MENTIONED THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS OFFERING FERTILIZER FOR ABOUT \$150 PER TON. (WE HAVE HEARD FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT FUTURE PURCHASES OF FERTILIZER FROM THE USSR WOULD BE AT NEAR WORLD PRICES.) HE ADDED THAT THE GOA HAD DECIDED TO RETAIN THE AFC AND US TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR IT. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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- 3. AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT SOVIET FERTILIZER IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR AID FINANCING AND THAT HE WOULD DOUBLE CHECK WITH WASHINGTON REGARDING THE POSSIBLE AVAILABILITY OF AID FINANCING FOR IRAQI AND KUWAITI FERTILIZER, ASSUMING SUCH FERTILIZER WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE TO AFGHANISTAN.
- 4. COMMENT: WE ASSUME FROM REFTEL THAT IRAQI AND KUWAITI FERTILIZER IS ELIGIBLE FOR AID FINANCING UNDER CODE 899. APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION THIS AND WASHINGTON ADVICE ON FEASIBILITY U.S. FINANCING FERTILIZER PURCHASED BY GOA ON GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATED BASIS. WE WILL BE FOLLOWING UP HERE TO DETERMINE EXACTLY WHAT ABDULLAH MEANT BY THE GOA'S DECISION TO RETAIN THE AFC AND THE CHECCHI TEAM. WE WILL ALSO OF COURSE BE REVIEWING THIS ENTIRE SUBJECT WITH LUSTIG DURING HIS VISIT. ELIOT

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Message Attributes

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